

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 OMB-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 HA-05 /087 W
-----124691 281135Z /21

P R 280940Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3634
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 13014

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IN
SUBJECT: DECISION ON DPSA DEFERRED

REF: NEW DELHI 11810

1. ACTING UK HIGH COMMISSIONER EWANS TOLD DCM AUGUST 28 THAT AT GOI REQUEST BRITISH HAD EXTENDED JAGUAR OFFER BEYOND AUGUST 31. EWANS SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT FRENCH MIRAGE OFFER HAD ALSO BEEN EXTENDED, AND PERHAPS SWEDISH VIGGEN OFFER AS WELL. EWANS THOUGHT THAT GOI CABINET COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS WOULD MEET TO MAKE DECISION SHORTLY AFTER MONSOON SESSION OF PARLIAMENT RECESSES. PARLIAMENTARY SESSION WAS SCHEDULED TO END AUGUST 24 BUT HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO AUGUST 31.

2. ACCORDING TO EWANS, SWEDES HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFULLY URGING GOI TO JOIN THEM IN A JOINT REQUEST TO USG TO PERMIT THE VIGGEN TO CONTINUE IN CONTENTION.
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3. IN ORDER TO MAKE THEIR OFFER MORE ATTRACTIVE THE FRENCH, SAID EWANS, HAVE OPENED UP THE POSSIBILITY OF CO-PRODUCTION IN INDIA OF THE MIRAGE 2000, THE NEXT GENERATION AIRCRAFT AFTER THE MIRAGE F-1. GOI THEN INQUIRED IF THE BRITISH WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THE TORNADO, THE BRITISH EQUIVALENT TO THE MIRAGE 2000.

WHILE THE BRITISH HAVE AGREED TO DO SO, IT WAS EWANS VIEW THAT THE MIRAGE 2000/TORNADO POSSIBIILITY WAS PRETTY MUCH OF A RED HERRING SINCE THE INDIANS WILL HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE IN CO-PRODUCING THE JAGUAR OR F-1, LET ALONE A MORE ADVANCED AIRCRAFT.

4. COMMENT: INASMUCH AS THE INDIANS ARE INTERESTED IN BUYING TECHNOLOGY, THE OPTION TO BUY INTO THE NEXT GENERATION OF AIRCRAFT COULD BE AN ATTACTION. WE TEND TO AGREE WITH BRITISH HERE, HOEVER, THAT DPSA NEGOTIATIONS ARE SO FAR DOWN THE ROAD THAT THE GOI DECISION IS NOT LIKELY TO BE GREATLY INFLUENCED OR DELAYED BY INDIAN CONSIDERATION OF THE MIRAGE 2000 AND TORNADO.
GOHEEN

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Message Attributes

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